



# York Township

## Business Stormwater Management



### *Only Rain...Down the Storm Drain*

#### WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is water runoff from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or drains into what we call storm sewers. These are the drains you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Collectively, the draining water is called stormwater runoff.

#### BUSINESS SOLUTIONS TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

Businesses need to be aware that things they do or products they use in their daily operations can enter the stormwater system and effect our water sources. Runoff from construction sites, spills at fueling areas and chemicals used to keep outdoor areas clean can be picked up by rainwater and whisked into the storm sewer system.

Vehicle wastes are among the many common stormwater pollutants that can degrade water quality. Stormwater runoff from vehicle maintenance and repair wastes has been found to contain high concentrations of metals, organics, oil and grease. When these wastes wash into our waters, they can kill aquatic organisms.

Metals such as chromium, cadmium, lead, and zinc have the potential to contaminate drinking water supplies as well as bioaccumulation in aquatic life. Organics such as engine degreasers, cleaners, and other solvents can also degrade water quality.

#### Business Guide for Clean Stormwater

##### All Businesses

- ◆ Implement a recycling program to reduce the amount of litter that may end up in the nearby creeks.
- ◆ Regularly service your business vehicles to prevent oil leaks and take your business vehicles to the car wash instead of washing in the lot.

##### Construction/Landscape Activities

- ◆ Use filter fabric or hay to block sediment or other construction runoff from entering into the storm drain. Do not rinse or clean cement or heavily soiled trucks near a storm drain.
- ◆ Sweep up grass clippings after mowing the lawn. Do not leave them in the street. Do not blow leaves in the street that may eventually clog storm drains.
- ◆ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly to prevent polluted runoff.

##### Automotive Repair & Service

- ◆ Use drip pans or buckets to contain or catch oil leaks.
- ◆ Properly label all hazardous waste containers and dispose of hazardous waste properly.
- ◆ Regularly inspect, maintain, and service your containment units to prevent leakage.

##### Food Service/Restaurant

- ◆ Regularly inspect, maintain, and service your grease traps. Do not clean filters or traps on pavement where the grease and detergents may runoff to a storm drain.
- ◆ Sweep up litter and debris from the sidewalk and curb to prevent litter build-up in front of storm drains.

##### Office/Retail/Child Care/Other Services

- ◆ Sweep up litter and debris from the sidewalk, parking area, and curb to prevent litter build up in front of storm drains.

#### Additional Information

These contents are informational and summary in nature.

For more information, call York Township at (717) 741-3861,

or visit our website at <http://www.yorktownship.com/our-township/stormwater/>

For more information on hazardous waste requirements, call the York County Solid Waste Authority at (717) 845-1066 or visit their website at <http://www.ycswa.org/residualindustry-waste/>

#### **If you notice any of the following notify the Township and/or call 911:**

- Dumping, spills or other illicit (illegal) discharge into storm sewers or streams
- Sediment leaving a construction site during a rain event
- Observed pollution event or pollutants entering a stream
- Dry weather flow (Water observed flowing out of a pipe when there hasn't been any rainfall for a period of 72 hours or more)
- Water Main break